

Questions and Answers

1. We need to understand the data supplied by the gauge shown on picture 3, which also shows some floating debris. We are assuming that the elevation shown indicates either a flood elevation calibrated to MSL or a draft elevation, calibrated for captains to assess the available draft for their vessels. This question begs the question about how deep the water is at either end of the locks. Depending on the water depth, different excavation methods may need to be employed in order to remove the sediment in front of the gates. We have available 20 portable barges, mats, push boats, cranes, clams, long reach excavators and floating suction dredges. Each technology has its advantages, yet some of this equipment has depth limitations. In order to give you a comprehensive bid, we need to know the depth of the water at both ends of the locks.

Answer: The most recent surveys the Corps of Engineers have are now attached to the solicitation. Please note that these were done before Hurricane Matthew.

In relation to use of heavy equipment: No heavy equipment may be driven onto the concrete esplanade area at the locks due to the age and unknown ability of the structure to be able to support anything beyond a typical passenger vehicle.

2. Do you know is there an access road on the other side of the Dam? Also, the debris one other side of the Dams can it be placed up on the shoreline ? Or is it need to be taken off as well?

Answer: There is no access road on the shoreline opposite the lock structure. All woody debris removed from anywhere on the lock structure needs to be disposed of on the shoreline opposite the lock structure as shown in the red area on the solicitation exhibits.

3. How the wide is the navigation channel? Also, if a barge is used to #1 first are we going to be able to get to the other side before cleaning as you go?

Answer: The lock structure can safely handle a vessel that is 35' wide. If the Contractor is relying on being locked through to get upstream, they will likely need to clean as they go. We cannot promise the channel or lock structure will allow passage prior to work being done.

4. I have couple of questions about debris removal. Does this include submerged, sunken or hidden trees under the water? I don't see a problem with being able to remove the trees that we can see or get a line on. I am concerned with the trees that might be sunken or submerged. We can find them by dragging a line through the area but it may take bring in a professional dive team to rig them to pull them out. How do you want to handle this contingency? I have a couple of professional drive team that I can bring in but it will seriously increase price. Let me know how you want to estimate that? I can build in as contingency?

Answer: The contract includes submerged debris since the end result is to have a clear and navigable channel through the locks. How that work is accomplished is up to the Contractor.

5. Next is dealing with the removal of the sediment. The SOW is kind of incomplete in this. For simplicity, I see it as two options. First If it is the whole navigable channel or entrance and exit ways yellow blocks, my calculations show for all three dams this is an area of 2120' by 40 by 8' deep this works out to 23,644 CY3 of material. This is probably on the high side by maybe 40%.

This would require bring in a small suction dredge and would take around 30 days. Please confirm this is what the ACOE is looking for? Second is clear area in front and behind the lock gates. This would be an area of 80'X40'X8' for all six gates. This works out to 5690 CY3. This could be accomplish by bringing in a submersible pump and pumping the material into Geo-textiles tubes. This would take about 15 days. Still is pricey but there are a lot of advances. Let me know if this is an alternative?

Answer: **The intent of the contract is to remove enough sediment and debris to have a navigable channel to the specified depth within the yellow block and allow the lock gates to open fully.**

6. Also can we break the contract into two pieces? Part one would be remove the snags and debris. Part two would be removal of the sediment. My firm can move very quickly to remove the trees and debris. I estimate this job would take three days per lock. This is not considering having to located sunken or submerged snags. This would add another two days per lock. Is it ok if I break my estimate in these two parts? One for snag removal and second for sediment removal?

Answer: **The contractor can provide one price for the whole job. Pricing does not have to be broken out by each lock and dam. A revised quote sheet is included.**

7. Is the January 31 deadline to have the gates open?

Answer: **The Jan 31 deadline is due to environmental restrictions for working in the river due to anadromous fish spawning timeframes. Unless a variance is granted, the work in the river must be completed by then. The Corps is working with partner agencies to see whether a variance is possible and hope to have an answer on that prior to the contract being awarded.**